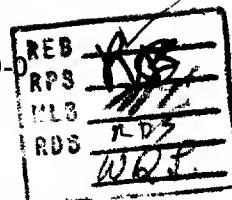


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C O P Y

23 February 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE

ATTENTION: Mr. Fisher Howe

Subject : Request for the establishment of a
Shore to Ship Communication Channel

1. This is in reply to your letter of 1 February 1949 on the question of providing a communication channel between our radio station at [] and vessels in or near the []

2. After careful consideration of the Army's request, we are forced to the conclusion that the establishment of such a channel presents an unacceptable security hazard because operation with ships would bring the station to a degree of prominence that is undesirable. At present, the station is [] Government, and the additional traffic might have the effect of attracting undue attention. A further security risk exists since traffic would be conducted with shipboard radio operators whose sympathies, at times, are questionable. Also, such operations would probably require the inclusion of our station in published lists of shore station frequencies, a circumstance that we believe would be detrimental to the present mission of the station.

3. It is our understanding that the Navy has found it impossible to establish traffic with commercial vessels due to the unreliability of shipboard operators in meeting schedules. Such a condition would place a burden on our operators at [] that, because of personnel limitations, would be impossible to assume.

4. In our investigation of this request, it developed that certain facilities exist in [] which could be utilized for shore to ship communication. We have been informed that a land line is in use between [] (shore station) and that such a line may also connect with []

These channels might prove adequate to the Army's need for expeditious handling of information relative to ship arrivals and unloadings. It has also been suggested that the [] Government or perhaps the [] as a training program, be asked to provide the required facilities.

[]
Acting Assistant Director

cc: Commo
cc: Mr. Jeffrey Kitchen
(State)